II.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Shall we take up Questions and Answers now or adjourn? It is left to hon. Members. The position is this. We can consider the Budget for five hours. If half an hour is taken up by Questions and Answers, we will have 4½ hours. We will meet between 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. or between 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. We shall now take up Questions and Answers." 11-20 a.m.

Contribution towards the expenses of Constituent Assembly.

* 80 Q.—ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR : Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state what financial contribution has been made or is proposed to be made by the Madras Government, towards the expenses of the Constituent Assembly?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM :—" No contribution has been made or is proposed to be made by this Government towards the expenses of the Constituent Assembly."

Revival of time-gun.

* 81 Q.—ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR : Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the Government propose to order the revival of the time-gun in order that the citizens of Madras City may get to know the exact time?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM :—" The question was taken up with the local military authorities soon after the cessation of hostilities, but as the necessary ammunition is now obsolete and no stock is available, it has not been possible to revive the time-gun signal at Madras. The Government propose to address the Government of India to see if a modern gun can be secured."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR : " Will the Government consider any other method by which people can know the exact time? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM :—" Yes, Sir; it will be considered."

Audit of co-operative societies.

* 82 Q.—MR. K. O. ANTHONI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the concurrent audit of co-operative societies takes place months after the concerned month;

(*b*) whether the final audit of co-operative societies takes place several months after the close of the co-operative year; and

(*c*) if the answers to (*a*) and (*b*) are in the affirmative, what the cause for the delay is and what steps the Government are going to take to see that the concurrent and final audits are made in time?